

INFORMATION FOR MINISTER COUTTS BORDER BLOCKADE – DIVERSION PLAN

COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES

- Communicate to truckers the other border crossing options available to avoid the blockade at Coutts.
- Demonstrate the Alberta government's actions to support the trucking industry and lessen the economic impact of the illegal blockade on individual truckers and the Alberta economy.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Alberta Government is working to ensure the cross border movement of goods by assisting truckers in finding alternative routes to bypass the blockade at Coutts.
- We have been in contact with the CBSA and officials on the US side of the border to ensure truckers have other routes cross the border.
 - We will continue to actively work with these officials to facilitate cross border movement.
- Hours have been extended at Carway and Del Bonita crossings; these are encouraged alternative ports of entry for passenger vehicles, however there will be limitations for certain commercial loads.
 - Coutts is a designated commercial port of entry that provides specialized inspection and brokerage services, whereas other crossings do not.
 - As an example, Carway and Del Bonita crossings do not have facilities such as Food Inspection Agency requirements for livestock, perishable products.
 - Commercial trucks without specialized requirements can be accommodated through Del Bonita and Carway.
 - Drivers and trucking companies are encouraged to confirm proper ports of entry with CBSA for any specialized load and other requirements that may apply.
 - Alternative designated commercial 24 hour ports of entry in Western Canada are Emerson, Manitoba, North Portal, Saskatchewan, and Pacific Highway, BC.
- The situation is fluid and changing rapidly – we encourage truckers to follow @511Alberta for the latest information on road closures, road conditions and alternate routes.

STAKEHOLDER STRATEGY

- Alberta Motor Transport Association continue to encourage their members to use 511 Alberta to access the most up to date information on roadway conditions, closures, and border crossings.
- Detailed information on washroom facilities, vehicle inspection stations, and safety rest areas is also available on the following link:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=993f27dba87b4f69a760b26bfce85b64>

Roll Out Plan:

- Use @511Alberta as the main method of communication to provide information on alternate route planning, road conditions and road closures.
- Provide information on government, department and Minister's social media channels.
- Work with other stakeholders (AMTA) to share information through their social media and other channels.
- Reach out to media to share and provide the latest information on diversion route options.

Driver Information (to share):

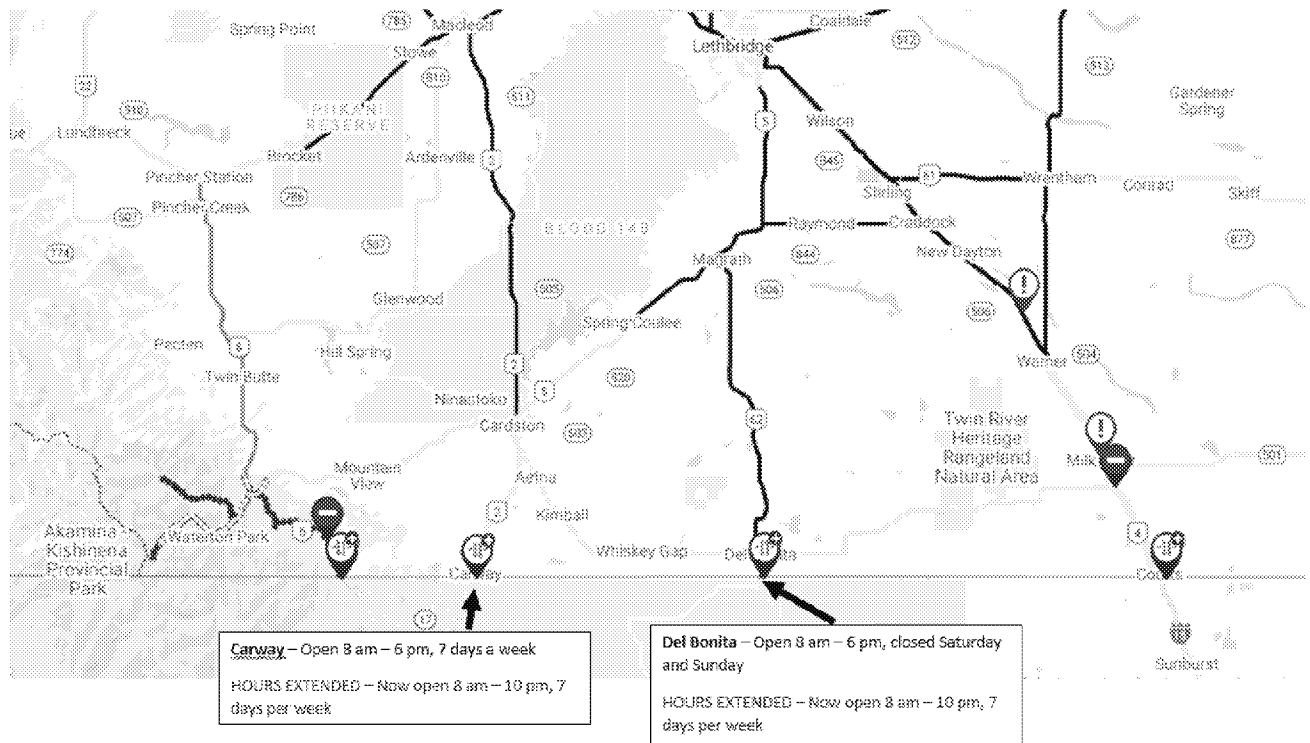
- CBSA has extended hours at Carway and Del Bonita to 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM (these crossings usually closed at 6:00 pm, and Del Bonita was closed on Saturdays and Sundays). They are open 7 days per week.
 - Specialized loads may not be able to be accommodated. Drivers and trucking companies are encouraged to confirm with CBSA that their specialized loads can cross at these ports.
- For any drivers who are diverted from the Coutts border crossing to other Alberta ports of entry/exit.
 - Carway Border Crossing (Highway 2)
 - Highway 2 north to Town of Cardston,
 - Highway 2 north to access Highway 3 at Town of Fort Macleod
 - Highway 509 at Standoff to access Highway 3 near City of Lethbridge
 - Highway 5 northeast to access Highway 4/3 at City of Lethbridge
 - Del Bonita Border Crossing (Highway 62)
 - Highway 62 north to Town of Magrath
 - Highway 5 northeast to access Highway 4/3 at City of Lethbridge
 - Highway 5 southeast to access Highway 2 at Town of Cardston
 - Highway 501 east to access Highway 4 near Town of Milk River
 - Highway 501 west to access Highway 23 at Town of Cardston
 - Wildhorse Border Crossing (Highway 41)
 - Highway 41 north to Highway 1 east of City of Medicine Hat
 - Highway 1 west to access Highway 3 or continue north on Highway at City of Medicine Hat
 - Highway 1 east to access Saskatchewan
- Permits are needed for commercial vehicles to haul goods when weights and dimensions are more than the regulated limits.
 - The Central Permit Office can be contacted, Monday to Friday, 7AM to 9PM, and Saturdays and Sundays, 8AM to 4PM at central.permits@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 1-800-662-7138. A Permit Program Delivery Representative can assist with permit questions and applications.

- Most permits can be obtained online, 24/7 at <https://www.trans.gov.ab.ca/TravisWebLogin/welcome.htm>
- For changes to oversize and overweight load permits, drivers/carriers must log into TRAVIS online to request additional routes to their permit. Routes must be pre-approved to determine infrastructure limitations (bridge weight restrictions, and height limitations) prior to movement.
 - TRAVIS log-in - <https://www.trans.gov.ab.ca/TravisWebLogin/welcome.htm>
 - For any carriers experiencing compliance issues as a result of road closures, they can also contact the Central Permit Office.

Background

- The situation remains fluid.
- Senior department officials have been in direct contact with Canada Border Services Agency officials, as well as James Rajotte, Alberta's Senior Representative to the US, and Julia Bareman in the Alberta Washington Office to ensure proper connections in the state of Montana.
- CBSA is seeing passenger traffic rerouting to Carway and Del Bonita.
 - CBSA has extended hours at Carway and Del Bonita to 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM (these crossings usually closed at 6:00 pm, and Del Bonita was closed on Saturdays and Sundays). They are open 7 days per week.
 - US Customs have also aligned with these extended hours.
 - CBSA is not able to keep these ports open on a 24 hour basis due to staffing requirements.
 - CBSA has advised that not all border agents have the same qualifications that would be required for commercial vehicle inspections on a 24 hr basis.
- Some commercial drivers may have already re-routed to alternative ports of entry or may be delaying their routing decision.

511 Alberta Screen Capture:



Safety Rest Area Map screen capture:

